

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 251

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the Republic of Croatia for the conduct of its parliamentary and presidential elections.

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Whereas the fourth Croatian parliamentary elections, held on January 3, 2000, marked Croatia's progress toward meeting its commitments as a participating state of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and as a member of the Council of Europe;

Whereas Croatia's third presidential elections were conducted smoothly and professionally and concluded on February

7, 2000, with the landslide election of Stipe Mesic as the new President of the Republic of Croatia;

Whereas the free and fair elections in Croatia, and the following peaceful and orderly transfer of power from the old government to the new, is an example of democracy to the people of other nations in the region and a major contribution to the democratic development of southeastern Europe; and

Whereas the people of Croatia have made clear that they want Croatia to take its rightful place in the family of European democracies and to develop a closer and more constructive relationship with the Euro-Atlantic community of democratic nations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the people of the Republic of Croatia are to
4 be congratulated on the successful elections and the
5 outgoing Government of Croatia is to be commended
6 for the democratic standards with which it managed
7 the elections;

8 (2) the United States should support the efforts
9 of the new Government of Croatia to increase its
10 work on refugee return, privatization reform, acces-
11 sion to the World Trade Organization, media re-
12 form, and further cooperation with the International
13 Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to
14 set an example to other countries in the region;

1 (3) the Congress strongly supports Croatia's
2 commitment to western democratic standards and
3 will give its full support to the new Government of
4 Croatia to fully implement democratic reforms;

5 (4) the United States continues to promote
6 Croatian-American economic, political, and military
7 relations and welcomes Croatia as a partner in the
8 cause of stability and democratization in south cen-
9 tral Europe;

10 (5) the United States and the Republic of Cro-
11 atia should work to establish a strategic partnership
12 to include Croatia's entry into the North Atlantic
13 Treaty Organization's Partnership for Peace; and

14 (6) the countries of the European Union should
15 develop closer relations with Croatia and, in par-
16 ticular, should help to expedite Croatia's accession
17 into global and regional trade organizations, includ-
18 ing the World Trade Organization.

Passed the House of Representatives May 15, 2000.

Attest:

Clerk.